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Smart Polymeric Devices

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Deadline for manuscript submissions:

closed (25 May 2021)

Message from the Guest Editor

The birth of smart polymers possibly dates back to two patents filed in the 1940s, which concerned the combination of dimethylsiloxane and boric acid (Boronorgano-silicon oxide). This resulted in a rheopectic material that was initially marketed as a toy called "silly putty". Although it is not really a smart material in this basic form, it was found, many years later, to exhibit extremely interesting properties when mixed with ferromagnetic or ferroelectric particles. In the meantime, the majority of smart polymers that have emerged over the past two decades are also silicone-based, particularly poly(dimethylsiloxane). During this time, there has also been a surge in interest in the area of smart polymers and smart polymeric devices. Whether thermally, electrically, or magnetically controlled, such elements are integral in many actuators, dampers, and shape memory devices.

This Special Issue on "smart polymeric devices" is intended to highlight a range of devices based on the use of such materials.













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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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